

Senator Joyce Waddell's February 6, 2017, Newsletter

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 Mecklenburg County*

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**The Waddell
 Weekly Bulletin**

**Vol. 3 Ed. 1 February 6,
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**Dear Friends:**

The legislators have been busy filing bills for introduction. I look forward to introducing and co-sponsoring legislation that invests in a strong public education system, promotes middle-class families, and overall improves the livelihood of the citizens of District 40 and the state of North Carolina.

On Wednesday, I joined a press conference with my Democratic colleagues to talk about the residual effects of our state's coal ash crises that began three years ago at a coal-fired plant in Eden, North Carolina. Coal ash, which is a byproduct of coal, has managed to seep in residential wells after a pipe carrying ash ruptured and caused contamination of heavy metals. Legislation, such as the [Coal Ash Management Act of 2014](#), passed to properly clean and store the contaminated material and prevent it from entering our water, but those measures are not enough. Environmental groups have requested Duke Energy to recycle more ash, provide more homes with a clean water supply, and enact newer drinking standards to determine whether a well is safe to drink.

I cannot achieve anything without the support of my constituents. Thank you very much for your continued support!

Please continue to refer to the North Carolina General Assembly website www.ncleg.net. You will be able to track legislation, sign up for committee notices, and review the citizen's guide.

I encourage you to contact us with your thoughts, comments, or suggestions. Please feel free to have others join in on conversation by sending contact information to Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Legislative Update

- **[Driver Instruction/Law Enforcement Stops \(House Bill 21\)](#)** – In an attempt to curve confusion and fear that stem from traffic stops, this legislation requests that the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) include information highlighting law enforcement procedures and how drivers should interact with police officers. The DMV, in consultation with the State Highway Patrol, the North Carolina Sheriff's Association, and the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police, would

include in a driver license handbook a description of law enforcement procedures and the actions that a motorist should take during traffic stops. This bill has received support as many believe that educating young drivers could remove perceptions that traffic stops are dangerous.

- **[Repeal HB2 \(Senate Bill 25\)](#)** – I am a co-sponsor of this legislation which calls for the repeal of the anti-LGBT law known as House Bill 2. Repealing this discriminatory bill has been a high legislative priority for the Democrats. The Democrat Senators tried to fully repeal this legislation in the fifth special session on December 21, 2016. The Republicans also filed legislation to repeal House Bill 2 but included a six-month cooling-off period to prevent local governments from enacting nondiscrimination ordinances that regulated public accommodations. House Bill 2 is still intact and must be repealed.
- **[DL Restoration/DWI Treatment Court \(Senate Bill 21\)](#)** – I am a co-sponsor of this legislation which authorizes the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to conditionally restore the driver's licenses of citizens who have successfully completed a drug treatment program. The driver's license can be restored after one year of revocation for an impaired driving offense. The citizen must provide the DMV with a certificate of graduation from a drug treatment program, a letter of recommendation from the presiding judge of the drug treatment program, and a fee of \$25, in addition to other applicable fees.

At the General Assembly



Senator Joyce Waddell and her Democratic colleagues speak at a press conference in support of the citizens affected by the coal ash.
Wednesday, February 1, 2017

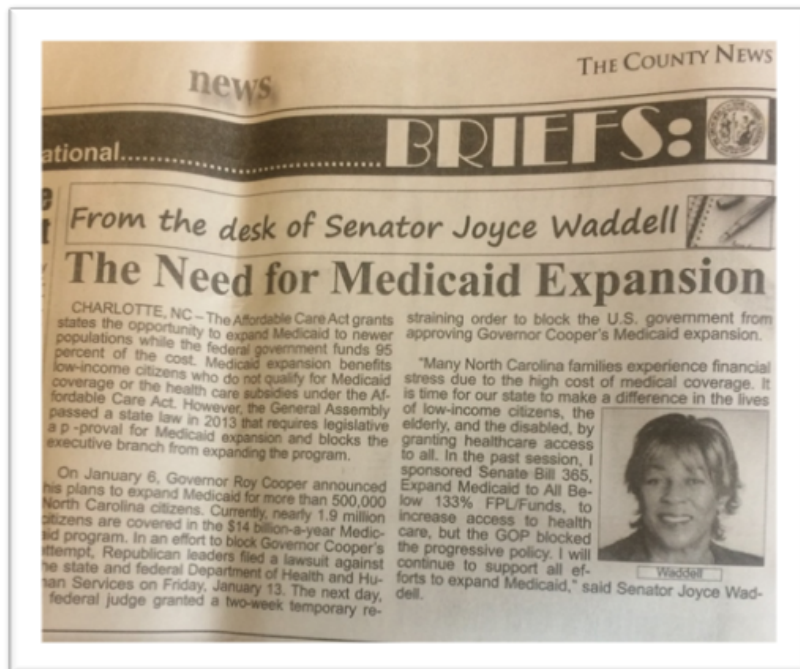


Senator Joyce Waddell leads the Senate Chamber in prayer at Session. Wednesday, February 1, 2017



Senator Joyce Waddell reflects on Black History Month at Session and highlights the work of Franklin McCain, a freshman at NC A&T, who stood against segregation in this country by sitting at the all-white lunch counter in the F.W. Woolworth department store in Greensboro, NC. Wednesday, February 1, 2017

The County News



Senator Waddell's office is open Monday through Friday during Session. You may reach her office by calling her Legislative Assistant, Jyrira Moore, at 919-733-5650 or by email at waddelljla@ncleg.net.

All committee meetings and press conferences can be heard on the General Assembly's website at www.ncleg.net. Once on the site, select "**Audio**" and then make your selection: House Chamber, Senate Chamber, Committee Room or Press Conference Room. A schedule of committee meetings and other events is also available on the website.

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